



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
DIVISION OF STATE POLICE  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE



Leonard C. Boyle  
*Commissioner of Public Safety*

Colonel Edward J. Lynch  
*Deputy Commissioner, Division of State Police*

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## **FIREWORKS ARE ILLEGAL AND DANGEROUS, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY REMINDS RESIDENTS FOR 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY HOLIDAY**

The upcoming July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday weekend serves as a reminder that fireworks are illegal in the state, the Connecticut State Police and the Office of the State Fire Marshal said today.

In recent weeks, advertisements have encouraged residents to purchase fireworks for their Independence Day celebrations. The only legal "fireworks" in Connecticut are sparklers, which were legalized for use in 2000.

Sparklers are non-explosive, non-aerial devices that contain less than 100 grams of pyrotechnic mixture and can be used and purchased legally only by persons 16 years of age or older.

Novelty items such as party poppers, snakes, snappers and smoke devices are not legal for private use in Connecticut. It is illegal to purchase, sell, possess or use fireworks; fireworks are defined by law as "any combustible or explosive composition prepared for the purpose of producing a visible or audible effect by combustion, explosion, deflagration or detonation." Violation of the law could lead to a fine of up to \$100 or a sentence of up to 90 days, or both.

Larger "fire crackers" are actually explosive devices banned by law. This includes M-80s, M-100s, M-250s and larger; cherry bombs; quarter sticks; block busters, etc.

In addition, it is illegal to transport into the state fireworks that were purchased outside of Connecticut. Violators may be fined up to \$2,000 and sentenced to up to six months in prison, or both. If such a violation results in injury or death, violators could be fined up to \$10,000 or imprisoned up to 10 years, or both.

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Illegal, exploding devices are dangerous and have caused serious injury to people of all ages, noted Public Safety Commissioner Leonard C. Boyle. He added that since 2001, a number of house fires and grass fires have been attributed to illegal fireworks.

"The illegal use of fireworks has a strong potential to endanger human life, as well as damage property. The safest way to enjoy this year's Fourth of July is to attend one of the many public fireworks displays held at a site approved by state and local officials and operated by a Connecticut-licensed, professional pyrotechnician," Commissioner Boyle said.

Fires started by illegal fireworks may be designated as arson, punishable by fines and/or imprisonment.

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